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Attorney for Plaintiff

ROCKEFELLER PHOTOS, LLC

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROCKEFELLER PHOTOS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

V.

FULL STACK LLC d/b/a
MILLED.COM,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. _____

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Rockefeller Photos, LLC (“Plaintiff”) sues defendant Full Stack LLC d/b/a Milled.com (“Defendant”), and alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business located in

1 Miami-Dade County, Florida.

2 2. Defendant is a limited liability company organized and existing under
3 the laws of the State of California with its principal place of business located at
4 1401 21st St. Ste. R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Defendant's agent for service of
5 process is Registered Agents Inc., 1401 21st Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA
6 95811.
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9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
11 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

12 4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it has
13 maintained sufficient minimum contacts with this State such that the exercise of
14 personal jurisdiction over it would not offend traditional notions of fair play and
15 substantial justice.
16

17 5. Venue properly lies in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a)
18 because Defendant or its agents reside or may be found in this district. "The Ninth
19 Circuit has interpreted Section 1400(a) to mean that venue is proper in any judicial
20 district in which the defendant would be amenable to personal
21 jurisdiction." Righthaven LLC v. Inform Techs., Inc., No. 2:11-CV-00053-KJD-
22 LRL, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 119379, at *8 (D. Nev. Oct. 14, 2011) (citing Brayton
23 Purcell LLP v. Recordon & Recordon, 606 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir. 2010)).
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FACTS

I. Plaintiff's Business and History

6. Plaintiff is a premier provider of rights-managed photography and videography in the highly-competitive food and beverage industry. By offering its customers access to tens of thousands of stock photographs/videos, Plaintiff provides its customers with the opportunity to build brand association/recognition through the use of media tailored to their needs.

7. Prepared Food Photos, Inc. ("Prepared Food Photos") is one of the customers/stock photography agencies represented by Plaintiff. Through its staff of professional photographers, Prepared Food Photos created and owns approximately 18,000 food-related photographs for use by supermarkets, ad agencies, and other professionals needing access to an extensive library of quality photographs.

II. The Works at Issue in this Lawsuit

8. In 1997, a professional photographer employed and/or contracted by Plaintiff's above-named customer created a photograph titled "RawPorkSausageItalianHot003_ADL, 08-21-1997" (the "Work"). A copy of the Work is displayed below:



9. The Work was registered by the above-named customer (pursuant to a work-for-hire agreement with the author that transferred all rights and title in the photograph to the above-named customer) with the Register of Copyrights on January 20, 2017 and was assigned Registration No. VA 2-027-172. A true and correct copy of the Certificate of Registration pertaining to the Work is attached hereto as **Exhibit “A.”**

10. Plaintiff’s above-named customer is the owner of the Work and has remained the owner at all times material hereto.

11. For all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff and its above-named customer were parties to one or more written agreements whereby such above-named customer conveyed to Plaintiff certain exclusive rights in the Work, including but not limited to the exclusive right to reproduce the Work in copies

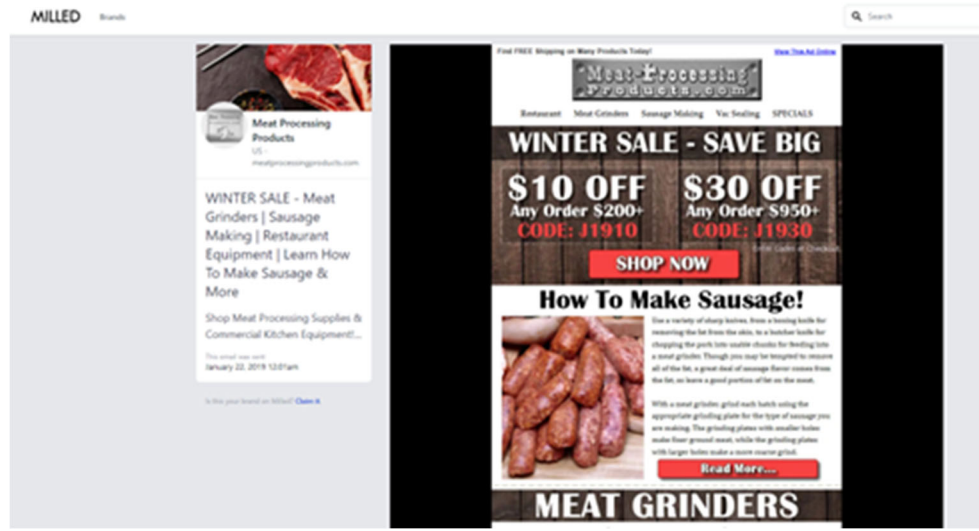
1 and the exclusive right to distribute copies of the Work to the public by sale and/or
2 licensing. Such written agreement(s) likewise convey the exclusive right to pursue
3 any infringements of the Work, whether such infringements arose prior to
4 execution of the written agreement(s) or thereafter. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to
5 institute and maintain this action for copyright infringement. See 17 U.S.C. §
6 501(b).
7

8 **III. Defendant's Unlawful Activities**

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10 12. Defendant owns and operates an online search engine for e-commerce
11 newsletters and email sales.

12 13. Defendant advertises/markets its business through its website
13 (<https://milled.com/>), social media (e.g., <https://www.facebook.com/milledcom/>),
14 and other forms of advertising.
15

16 14. In January 2019 (after the above-referenced copyright registration of
17 the Work), Defendant displayed and/or published the Work on its website,
18 webpage, and/or social media (at [https://milled.com/meat-processing-](https://milled.com/meat-processing-products/winter-sale-meat-grinders-sausage-making-restaurant-equipment-learn-how-to-make--oyyRiQk1Y4XJ2HfF)
19 [products/winter-sale-meat-grinders-sausage-making-restaurant-equipment-learn-](https://milled.com/meat-processing-products/winter-sale-meat-grinders-sausage-making-restaurant-equipment-learn-how-to-make--oyyRiQk1Y4XJ2HfF)
20 [how-to-make--oyyRiQk1Y4XJ2HfF](https://milled.com/meat-processing-products/winter-sale-meat-grinders-sausage-making-restaurant-equipment-learn-how-to-make--oyyRiQk1Y4XJ2HfF)):
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15. A true and correct copy of screenshots of Defendant's website, webpage, and/or social media, displaying the copyrighted Work, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B."**

16. Defendant is not and has never been licensed to use or display the Work. Defendant never contacted Plaintiff to seek permission to use the Work in connection with Defendant's website, webpage, and/or social media – even though the Work that was copied is clearly professional photography that would put Defendant on notice that the Work was not intended for public use.

17. Defendant utilized the Work for commercial use.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendant located a copy of the Work on the internet and, rather than contact Plaintiff to secure a license, simply copied the Work for its own commercial use.

19. Through its ongoing diligent efforts to identify unauthorized use of its

1 photographs, Plaintiff and/or its above-named customer discovered Defendant's
2 unauthorized use/display of the Work in January 2023. Following such discovery,
3 Plaintiff and/or its above-named customer notified Defendant in writing of such
4 unauthorized use.
5

6 20. All conditions precedent to this action have been performed or have
7 been waived.
8

9 **COUNT I – COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

10 21. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 20 as set
11 forth above.

12 22. Each photograph comprising the Work is an original work of
13 authorship, embodying copyrightable subject matter, that is subject to the full
14 protection of the United States copyright laws (17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*).
15

16 23. Plaintiff's above-named customer owns a valid copyright in each
17 photograph comprising the Work, having registered the Work with the Register of
18 Copyrights.
19

20 24. Plaintiff has standing to bring this lawsuit and assert the claim(s)
21 herein as it has sufficient rights, title, and interest to such copyrights (as Plaintiff
22 was conveyed certain exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute the Work by the
23 above-named customer).
24

25 25. As a result of Plaintiff and/or its above-named customer's

1 reproduction, distribution, and public display of the Work, Defendant had access
2 to the Work prior to its own reproduction, distribution, and public display of the
3 Work on Defendant's website, webpage, and/or social media.
4

5 26. Defendant reproduced, distributed, displayed, and/or publicly
6 displayed the Work without authorization from Plaintiff or its above-named
7 customer.
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9 27. By its actions, Defendant infringed and violated Plaintiff's exclusive
10 rights in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 501. Defendant's
11 infringement was either direct, vicarious, and/or contributory.
12

13 28. Defendant's infringement was willful as it acted with actual
14 knowledge or reckless disregard for whether its conduct infringed upon copyright.
15 Notably, Defendant itself utilizes a copyright disclaimer on its website ("© 2025
16 Milled. All rights reserved. Third-party content belongs to respective owners."),
17 indicating that Defendant understands the importance of copyright
18 protection/intellectual property rights and is actually representing that it owns each
19 of the photographs published on its websites. See, e.g., Bell v. ROI Prop. Grp.
20 Mgmt., LLC, No. 1:18-cv-00043-TWP-DLP, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 127717, at
21 *3 (S.D. Ind. July 31, 2018) ("[T]he willfulness of ROI's infringement is evidenced
22 by the fact that at the bottom of the webpage on which the Indianapolis photograph
23 was unlawfully published appeared the following: 'Copyright © 2017.' By placing
24
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1 a copyright mark at the bottom of its webpage that contained Mr. Bell's
2 copyrighted Indianapolis Photograph, Mr. Bell asserts ROI willfully infringed his
3 copyright by claiming that it owned the copyright to everything on the webpage.");
4 John Perez Graphics & Design, LLC v. Green Tree Inv. Grp., Inc., Civil Action
5 No. 3:12-cv-4194-M, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 61928, at *12-13 (N.D. Tex. May 1,
6 2013) ("Once on Defendant's website, Defendant asserted ownership of Plaintiff's
7 Registered Work by including a copyright notice at the bottom of the page. Based
8 on these allegations, the Court finds Plaintiff has sufficiently pled a willful
9 violation...."). Defendant clearly understands that professional photography such
10 as the Work is generally paid for and cannot simply be copied from the internet.

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14 29. Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result of
15 Defendant's infringement.

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17 30. Plaintiff is entitled to recover its actual damages resulting from
18 Defendant's unauthorized use of the Work and, at Plaintiff's election (pursuant to
19 17 U.S.C. § 504(b)), Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages based on a
20 disgorgement of Defendant's profits from infringement of the Work, which
21 amounts shall be proven at trial.

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23 31. Alternatively, and at Plaintiff's election, Plaintiff is entitled to
24 statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), in such amount as deemed
25 proper by the Court.

1 32. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505, Plaintiff is further entitled to recover its
2 costs and attorneys' fees as a result of Defendant's conduct.

3 33. Defendant's conduct has caused, and any continued infringing
4 conduct will continue to cause, irreparable injury to Plaintiff unless enjoined by
5 the Court. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502,
6 Plaintiff is entitled to a permanent injunction prohibiting infringement of Plaintiff's
7 exclusive rights under copyright law.
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9

10 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 11 a. A declaration that Defendant has infringed the copyrights in the Work;
12 b. A declaration that such infringement is willful;
13 c. An award of actual damages and disgorgement of profits as the Court deems
14 proper or, at Plaintiff's election, an award of statutory damages for each
15 photograph comprising the Work;
16 d. Awarding Plaintiff its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 17
17 U.S.C. § 505;
18 e. Awarding Plaintiff interest, including prejudgment interest, on the foregoing
19 amounts;
20 f. Permanently enjoining Defendant, its employees, agents, officers, directors,
21 attorneys, successors, affiliates, subsidiaries and assigns, and all those in
22 active concert and participation with Defendant, from directly or indirectly
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1 infringing Plaintiff's copyrights or continuing to display, transfer, advertise,
2 reproduce, or otherwise market any works derived or copied from the Work
3 or to participate or assist in any such activity; and
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5 g. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
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8 DATED: January 10, 2025.

COPYCAT LEGAL PLLC

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10 By: /s/ Lauren Hausman

11 Lauren Hausman

12 Attorney for Plaintiff

13 Rockefeller Photos, LLC
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